

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EPA-04 CEQ-01 DOE-15  
SOE-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 OES-07 /077 W  
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R 021527Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7020  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
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AMEMBASSY PARIS  
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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 10790

E.O. 11652:N/A  
TAGS: ETRANS, ECMT  
SUBJ: 47TH SESSION EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS  
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OF TRANSPORT, MAY 31-JUNE 2, 1978.

REF: CM/A (78)L DRAFT

PASS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, PARIS FOR OECD, USEEC

SUMMARY: 47TH SESSION ECMT MET MAY 31-JUNE 2 AND, AS MOST

IMPORTANT ITEM OF BUSINESS, APPROVED SECRETARIAT PAPER  
"THE FUTURE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE ECMT IN THE  
TRANSPORT FIELD" (CM(78)10 DRAFT). MINISTERS AGREED WITH  
THRUST OF PAPER WHICH ADVOCATES A MULTI-MODAL APPROACH  
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(RAILROADS, INLAND WATERWAYS AND ROAD TRANSPORT) TO TRANS-  
PORT PROBLEMS/POLICIES. THE SPECIFICS OF FUTURE ACTIVITY  
WILL FOCUS ON SUCH AREAS AS INVESTMENTS, PRODUCTIVITY,  
LAND-USE, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT. ECMT WILL NEXT MEET  
IN PARIS DECEMBER 12, 1978. USDEL WAS HEADED BY DOT  
SECRETARY BROCK ADAMS. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST SUBSTANTIVE ITEM OF BUSINESS WAS ECMT SEC GEN  
BILLET REPORT ON MAY 30, 1978 MEETING BETWEEN ECMT COUNCIL  
AND SOME 14 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. BILLET SAID  
DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON ROLE AND FUTURE CONTRIBUTION OF  
ECMT WITH THOSE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FAVORING ECMT'S  
PROPOSED MULTI-MODAL (RAILROADS, ROAD TRANSPORT AND INLAND  
WATERWAYS) APPROACH. BILLET ADDED GROUP CAUTIONED THAT  
THIS MULTI-MODAL APPROACH SHOULD NOT LOSE FOCUS ON SPECIFIC  
TRANSPORT PROBLEMS. IN THIS REGARD, THEY URGED ECMT TO  
CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS IN ROAD SAFETY (BEGINNING AT ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL LEVELS). BILLET REPORTED THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN AN ECMT IN-DEPTH  
STUDY OF INLAND WATERWAYS. PUBLIC SERVICE AND SOCIAL  
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ASPECTS OF TRANSPORT POLICY WERE OTHER AREAS SUGGESTED FOR  
FURTHER ECMT STUDY.

2. FUTURE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF ECMT IN THE TRANSPORT  
FIELD (CM(78)10 DRAFT) DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM CONSUMED  
BALANCE OF FIRST DAY'S MEETING. MINISTERS EXPRESSED  
GENERAL AGREEMENT ON GUIDELINES FOR FUTURE WORK OUTLINED  
IN CAPTER III, WHICH ADVOCATES FLEXIBLE, MULTI-MODAL  
APPROACH TO TRANSPORT PROBLEMS IN ECO, SOCIAL AND TECHNO-  
LOGICAL CONTEXT. TOPICS WOULD INCLUDE, INTER-ALIA:  
INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY AND COMMERCIAL VIABILITY OF EACH  
MODE; LABOR COSTS AND EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS, INFRA-STRUCTURE  
AND RATIONAL USE OF TRANSPORT NETWORKS. CONFERENCE ALSO  
AGREED THAT WORK CONTINUE ON ECONOMIC RESEARCH, ENVIRONMENT,  
ENERGY AND REGIONAL PLANNING PROBLEMS.

3. THE FOLLOWING ARE ILLUSTRATIVE OF COMMENTS MADE BY  
VARIOUS MINISTERS:

-- FRG: ROAD SAFETY BE GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY AND CLOSE  
COOPERATION SHOULD BE PURSUED BETWEEN EC AND ECMT.  
-- YUGOSLAVIA: HELSINKI ACCORDS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

IN TRANSPORT FIELD SHOULD BE BORN IN MIND.  
-- SWISS: TRANSPORT POLICY TENDS TO EVOLVE LIKE MAN IN  
DARK ROOM LOOKING FOR BLACK CAT. DESPITE FACT HE IS TOLD  
THERE IS NO CAT, HE FINDS ONE THUS, IN QUEST FOR IMPROVED  
TRANSPORTATION POLICIES, INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF  
INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL.  
-- UK: TRANSPORT MINISTERS ARE NOT A LOBBY FOR TRANSPORT

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PASS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, PARIS FOR OECD, USEEC

INDUSTRY. ECMT EXISTS TO MEET INDUSTRIAL AND SOCIAL  
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NEEDS OF ITS MEMBERS; RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DIFFERENCES  
BUT ALSO COMMON PROBLEMS.

-- JAPAN: SUPPORTS ECMT DEPUTIES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS  
IN THIS AREA. AS ASSOCIATE MEMBER, JAPAN CAN BOTH LEARN  
FROM AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROCESS OF TRANSPORTATION  
POLICY DEVELOPMENT, AND REAFFIRMS ITS VIEW OF THE NEED  
FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS TO PLAY POSITIVE ROLE IN A REORGA-  
NIZED ECMT.

-- US: SECRETARY ADAMS EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH OUR NEW  
STATUS THIS YEAR AS ASSOCIATE MEMBER AND NOTED COMMON  
PROBLEM OF TRYING TO DEVELOP A COHERENT MULTI-MODAL SYSTEM  
WITH EQUITABLE REGULATORY POLICIES FOR ALL MODES.  
SECRETARY ADAMS CONCURRED WITH EARLIER STATEMENTS THAT  
TRANSPORT POLICY MUST TODAY BE MORE SENSITIVE TO OTHER  
CONCERNS SUCH AS ENERGY CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENT AND  
LAND USE. US JOINED JAPAN IN REAFFIRMING INTEREST IN  
ECMT AS A FORUM FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF COMMON  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY CONCERNS.

4. WORK PROGRAM CM(78)20. MINISTERS APPROVED DISCUSSION  
TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS. THESE TOPICS WILL INCLUDE,  
COMBINED TRANSPORT, THE HANDICAPPED AND TRANSPORT  
FINANCING.

5. REPORT ON ROAD TRAFFIC, SIGNS AND SIGNALS. THIS REPORT  
FOCUSED ON SIGNS/SIGNALS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS, ESCAPE  
LANES (E.G., BRAKE FAILURES ON LONG, STEEP HILLS) AND  
CLOSED OR NARROWING LANES. WHILE MINISTERS GAVE GENERAL  
APPROVAL TO REPORT AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, SEVERAL  
COUNTRIES (FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, ITALY AND U.K.) PREFERRED  
TO REFER REPORT BACK TO COMMITTEE OF DEPUTIES TO MAKE  
DESIRED REVISIONS.

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6. A) REPORT ON DRIVER TRAINING. ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN GIRONDEAU (FRANCE) STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF DRIVER  
TRAINING AND DEFICIENCIES OF CURRENT METHODS WHERE MANY  
TRAINERS ARE NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED (E.G., LEARNERS  
SHOULD BE TAUGHT ROAD DANGERS/HAZARDS AND HOW TO ANTICIPATE  
AND REACT TO THEM.) MINISTERS ACCEPTED REPORT WITHOUT  
DISCUSSION.

B) REPORT ON SEAT BELTS. - EC DEL REPORTED ON CONTINUING WORK IN THIS AREA. USDEL NOTED THAT NATIONAL HIGHWAY SAFETY ADMINISTRATION PARTICIPATED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT WHICH CONSTITUTES AN EXAMPLE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. USDEL ADDED THAT NONE OF 50 STATES REQUIRES SEAT BELT USE BECAUSE OF WIDE-SCALE PUBLIC REACTION TO THEM. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT 1984 MODELS WILL REQUIRE CRASH PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PASSIVE SAFETY SYSTEMS INCLUDING AIR BAGS). IN INTERIM, U.S. WILL URGE USE OF SEAT BELTS. USDEL PRAISED ECMT REPORT AND STATED OUR FULL AGREEMENT WITH IT. SEVERAL DELS REPORTED ON THEIR NATIONAL SITUATIONS IN WHICH SEAT BELTS ARE REQUIRED IN 15 MEMBER COUNTRIES. ITALY, YUGOSLAVIA (ABOUT TO INTRODUCE COMPULSORY LEGISLATION), IRELAND, U.S., JAPAN DO NOT REQUIRE SEAT BELTS. THESE COUNTRIES AGREED, HOWEVER, ON THE NEED FOR MANDATORY USE OF SEAT BELTS AND ARE MOVING TOWARD THAT OBJECTIVE. MINISTERS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

7. OTHER AREAS: THE REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS WERE EXCLUSIVELY OF EUROPEAN CONCERN (MULTILATERAL QUOTAS, REPORT ON SOCIAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES CONVENTION IN BORDEAUX, ETC.) AND, WITH EXCEPTION OF QUOTAS, DEBATE WAS MINIMAL.

8. NEXT MEETING OF ECMT: DECEMBER 12, 1978. DE TARR

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## Message Attributes

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